

# The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

*Preserving Our Past For Your Future*



143 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014

## Society News

November / December 2023

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The Historical Society of  
Harford County, Inc.,  
headquarters.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce the election of four new Trustees for the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees. Our new members are Jesse Bane, Paul Koerner, William Rothenbach, and Bill Baron. Their terms begin in January 2024, and I am sure they will be an excellent addition to the current team. I am also happy to announce the new chair of the Hays House, Sandra Wallis. Restoration work continues at the Hays House, so it remains closed for now, but Sandi's committee will be developing plans for its future. If you are interested in being part of this adventure or volunteering for the museum committee or one of the other committees that make the Society such a fascinating place to visit, please contact the Society at 410-838-7691 or [info@harfordhistory.org](mailto:info@harfordhistory.org).

We are moving ahead with a very ambitious schedule over the next two months that I hope our members will play a large role in supporting. The annual Archer lecture will be held at the Historical Society on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and will feature Ned Tillman, the author of *Good Endeavor*. This presentation promises to provide an eye-opening account of life in Harford County from 1695 to 2000 as experienced by Tillman's family. The Society's Speakers Series will follow with a virtual presentation on November 14<sup>th</sup> by Maryland cookbook author, Kara Mae Harris. Her newest cookbook focuses on Maryland's holiday favorites.

Holiday activities will abound through the coming months. The Society will be sponsoring a Greens Sale featuring advent wreaths, holiday centerpieces, and trees. To order one of these fresh evergreen arrangements, visit the Society's website [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org). Adding to the holiday schedule, the Society will hold the first annual *Spirits of Christmas Past Candlelight Christmas Tour*. This unique Christmas adventure will include a one-and-a-half-hour walking tour of Downtown Bel Air, complete with stories of Christmas past,

*cont'd page 3*



**HARFORD MUTUAL**  
INSURANCE GROUP

The Historical Society of Harford County newsletter is funded in part through a gift from Harford Mutual Insurance Group.

### COMING EVENTS

#### • **Annual Archer Lecture Featuring Ned Tillman, Author of *Good Endeavor***

Every year the Society presents a special lecture by a local author highlighting unique stories about the county and beyond. This year's Archer Lecture will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Historical Society Headquarters, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air, and will feature author Ned Tillman as he shares stories of life in Harford as experienced by his family.

We often hear about the early days when Joppa was the county seat of Baltimore County and the importance of its port, but we rarely have an opportunity to meet a descendent of one of those early Joppa settlers or to hear the stories of a family who experienced life in the county since its beginnings.

Author, Ned Tillman recently released a captivating novel based on the stories left by generations of his family who lived in Joppa on a property known as *Good Endeavor*. The Tillman family settled there in the 1600s and owned the property until a few years ago. The book traces life on that farm from its earliest days until 2000. The story encompasses more than three hundred years of Harford's history, from the earliest starving times through wars, industrial and economic highs and lows through the suburban life in Harford today. It is written as a novel, based on papers found on the property dating back to the earliest settlement and offers an eye-opening adventure through the county's history,

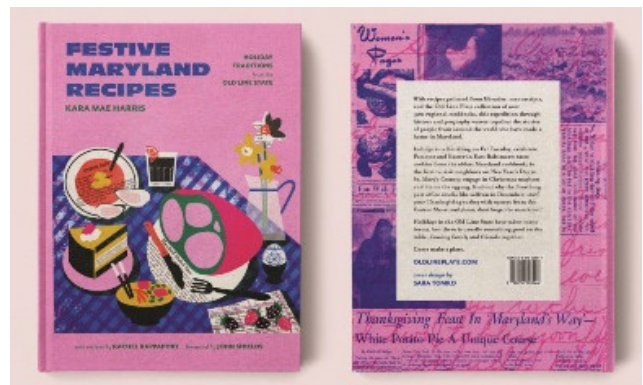
Ned's presentation will explore the county's early dependence on the port at Joppa, Native American encounters, iron furnaces, canning, wars, and more. Most fascinating of all, it happened right here in Harford County. This is a presentation you will not want to miss.

To register for the Archer Lecture, visit the Society's website [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org). Fee \$15

#### • ***Old Line Plate* blogger Kara Mae Harris Introduces Her New Holiday Cookbook**

Join us for a virtual presentation on Tuesday, November 14 at 12:30 p.m. featuring celebrated Maryland cookbook author Kara Mae Harris as she introduces her newest publication *Festive Maryland Recipes*. The book features holiday recipes that are significant to Maryland. The recipes were collected while gathering several oral histories and researching traditions related to various holidays. The author worked with recipe developer Rachel Rappaport to ensure the book had a balanced mix of savory and sweet dishes. The recipes came from Maryland cookbooks, newspapers, and food historians.

To register for this free virtual event and learn more about Maryland's rich food history go to the Society's website, [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org).



*HOLIDAY GREEN SALE:*  
*ADVENT WREATHS, HOLIDAY CENTERPIECES & TREES FOR SALE*



The Historical Society will offer a choice of creative arrangements for your holiday pleasure this year. Options range from beautifully designed Advent Wreaths, Christmas trees, and one or two candle centerpieces. All will include fresh evergreens, boxwood, berries, and ribbons to grace your holiday celebration. The sale includes:

- Advent Wreaths – Place your order by Saturday, November 25, 2023, for pick up at the Historical Society on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> between 11 AM and 2 PM, \$45
- Centerpieces and Christmas Trees – Place your orders by Monday, December 4, 2023. Pick up will be Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Historical Society, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air, Maryland
  - Single Candle Centerpieces, \$20
  - Two Candle Centerpieces, \$30
  - Christmas Tree, \$40

To place an order, visit our webpage [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org)

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*Continued from page 1*

caroling, and much more. The tours are scheduled on Friday and Saturday, November 24 through December 16 from 7 – 8:30 pm. Tickets are available on the Society's website. While you are in the holiday spirit, consider a gift that will truly brighten the holiday and beyond. A gift-wrapped edition of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology, *In Their Own Words*, with 105 stories written by some very talented current and former county residents is on sale at the Society and on the Society's website. This is truly a trip down memory lane covering Harford in the Twentieth Century, its people, places, and events. There are a limited number of books available, so order early. If you plan on attending one of the Christmas tours, the books will be waiting for you there, but you are encouraged to pre-order. Additional gift ideas are outlined in the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these events. Have a wonderful holiday season.

-Bill Walden, President

### *SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS PAST: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOUR*

Everyone is invited to join us for a unique Christmas adventure. This is your chance to learn about Christmas in days gone by while wandering through Bel Air's Winter Wonderland. The Society is pleased to announce its first annual Candlelight Christmas Tour led by docent, Julie Brasch. Participants will enjoy Christmas stories of days gone by, caroling, a small Christmas treat and much more. Tours will begin on Friday, November 24, and run every Friday and Saturday until December 16.



The one-and-a-half-hour tour will begin at the Historical Society, 143 N. Main Street in Bel Air at 7 p.m. Along the way, participants will learn about the many holiday traditions that have developed over time and hear unique stories about local traditions. Free parking is available on the Society's lot located behind the building.

Tour groups will be limited to 20 people and pre-registration is required. Tickets will not be available at the door. To order your tickets, go to the Society's website, [www.harfordhistory.org](http://www.harfordhistory.org). The price for tickets is \$20 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under.

As a special treat, consider starting your holiday shopping with us. Order a gift-wrapped copy of *In Their Own Words*, the 250<sup>th</sup> Harford County Anthology, and pick it up the night of your tour.

### *THE TEXTILE DEPARTMENT*

Susan K. Wooden and Kathy Scholl

In our previous article, we aligned the Textile Department's mission with the Society's slogan, "preserving our past for your future," through stories textiles can tell about Harford County. We told some of these stories during a presentation at Society headquarters on October 4<sup>th</sup> to members of the Clynmalira chapter of the Maryland State Questers, an organization whose mission is to "keep our history alive by supporting preservation, restoration, and education."

In early 2020, as we were preparing to exhibit the best of our collection of women's clothing of the 1870s-1920s at the Hays House Museum, the Clynmalira Questers gave us a grant to purchase professional quality clothing forms (unlike mannequins, forms do not have heads, arms, and legs). We planned to thank the Questers for their generosity with a reception and a guided tour of the exhibit. Because both the pandemic and the Hays House closure prevented us from following through, we instead staged the recent mini-display and presentation. The Questers appreciated hearing the story of the Textile Department's development from rudimentary to archival storage and organization, and the show-and-tell of 1875-1950 clothing on our new forms and hat blocks was a lively learning experience. We were pleased to give the Questers a close look at the value of their investment in the Society's ability to professionally display clothing and accessories that preserve part of Harford County's past in such a colorful way.



*1900s-1950s garments display*

Are you thinking about donating any sort of textile to the Society? Please consider that your item must have a Harford County history, such as a direct connection with people, sites, activities, or events in the

history of the County; or creation, manufacture, or ownership by a Harford Countian. The item must also be in good condition, without extensive tattering, odor, soiling, or staining. We're happy to talk to you about your potential donation.

Update on the 1975 Baker quilt: A heartfelt Thank You! to Dolly Baker, Henry Peden, and Carol Schatz, who found additional information about the quilt's makers and George H. Baker. His cause of death in 1880 was typhoid fever. His and Libbie's daughter, Georgie, died of congenital epilepsy shortly before her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Updated Table of Baker Quilt Makers**

Last Name	First Name	Lived	Age (1875)	Notes
Arnold	Hattie C. (Harriet)	1843-1914	32	Remained single
Baker	Alice C. (Alice Cordelia)	1854-1904	21	Married Asel Tollenger
Baker	Susie E.	1851-1921	24	Married Claypoole R. Courtney
Baker	Lydia C.	1843-1913-	32	Sister of Alice C Baker. Married Charles Wesley Harward
Carsins*	Anna E. (Anna Etta)	1855-1881	20	First wife of Septimus D. Jewens
Carsins*	Coreen (Mary Corinne)	1852-1931-	23	Second wife of Septimus D. Jewens
Carsins*	Laura V.	1858-1899	17	Remained single
Carsins*	Lizzie J. (Elizabeth Jane)	1853-1912-	20	Married Isaac Wesley Botts
Gilbert	Anna S. (Henrianna)	1848-1890	27	Married Robert J. Gilbert
Gilbert	Mollie E. (Mary Elizabeth)	1859-1942	16	Married John F. Smithson
Gilbert	Phoebe (Phoebe Elizabeth)	1852-1898	23	Married Jarret L. Ward
Hollis	Tillie (Martha Matilda)	1849-1934	31	Remained single
Jewens	Anna V.	1855-1920	20	Married William S. Bowman, Jr.
Jewens	Mary S.	1858-1935	17	Married J. Clinton Cooper
Johnson	Anna S.	1861-1944	14	Married William H. Williams
Johnson	Josephine	1854-1932	21	Married William B. Smithson
Richardson	Ida (Ida May)	1857-1918	18	Married Launcelot J. Rector
Smith	Lizzie (Elizabeth Jane)	1853-1892	22	Married John. H. Baker
Wells	Libbie (Mary Elizabeth)	1857-1939	18	Married George H. Baker 1879; Married Charles Osborn 1887
Whiteford	Lizzie (Elizabeth Jane)	1844-1925	31	Married Robert S. Parke

### NEW MEMBERS

Art Cox	Julian F. Mitchell	Albert G. Goergens, Jr.	Tad Hinder
Anja Hewitt	Paul Koerner	Steven Tomczewski	Kim Wagner

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

#### **Excerpt from *In Their Own Words: Harford in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***

The Harford 250 Anthology, *In Their Own Words*, celebrates Harford in the Twentieth Century and runs the gamut from stories about Harford's farms, towns, businesses, history, sports figures and so much more. As this is the Society's holiday edition, we are sharing an excerpt from the Anthology about a lost Christmas tradition that will bring back memories for many of you of long-ago school trips to Applewood Farm. The complete story is included in the anthology.

#### **APPLEWOOD FARM**

Brian and Pat Adelhardt

Brian and Pat Adelhardt purchased and moved to Applewood Farm in the Spring of 1974. Their dream was to raise beef cattle but because of high grain prices, they started growing grain. Those early years were difficult but the Adelhardts were young and energetic and decided to plant a quarter acre of free evergreen seedlings provided by the Forestry Service. As the trees grew so did the idea of inviting the public to the farm to cut their tree, enjoy the countryside, and create a memory with their family.



Located on the Mason-Dixon Line, folks would be passing several other Christmas tree farms before arriving at Applewood. The Adelhardts decided that some creative marketing was in order. Free Popcorn and Apple Cider were offered to every customer in those early years. A petting zoo with a variety of charming and pet-able animals, pony rides, and hay rides to the Christmas tree fields became part of the attractions. A gift shop added another element of interest and helped children who came on school tours pick reasonably priced trinkets as a

souvenir. As the years progressed more acres were devoted to trees and it became clear that the Christmas trees were a profitable crop, even though it took an average of seven years before they reached saleable height. A new attraction was added almost every year to keep customers interested and looking forward to returning to the farm to find their perfect Christmas tree.

First stop, was the reindeer corral. A small herd came to live at the farm and Farmer Brian extended an invitation to come visit the reindeer in December and hear an educational talk about these fun and unique animals



Next, the children tumbled off the hay wagon like birds leaving the nest and the group hustled to the barn to enjoy all the attractions inside and out. Squeals of delight pierced the air. Outside the barn, they spied the petting zoo, the kiddy maze, the playground, and the model choo choo chugging around the big fir tree by the barn doors. Inside their snack waited and the model trains ran.

Over the years, the Adelhardts hosted the Maryland Christmas Tree Association's Annual Meeting; Members of the Reindeer Owners & Breeders Association; Friends of Harford County; Harford County Farm Bureau Annual Farm Visitation and Fundraisers for Upper Chesapeake Hospital

Applewood Farm was at the forefront of this new approach to keep agriculture alive and well. Other farmers throughout Harford County also began to follow suit, and it helped to make our farms more diversified, and profitable, as well as introducing the public to local agriculture.

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE HAYS HOUSE

Susan K. Wooden



Over the past 50+ years, Harford County families and individuals, and others, have donated many well-used antique furnishings that help us imagine the Hays House Museum as the home it used to be. Regardless of how little we may know about the origin or previous ownership of specific items, each one has interesting characteristics worth talking about during a tour. (Our school-age visitors consider the chamber pot to be the most fascinating thing they ever saw.)

We recently discovered that one of our stately pieces—the chest of drawers in the main bed chamber—was brought back to life twice after being stored in the Hays House basement in an advanced state of deterioration. In a document dated July 18, 1983, Catherine Lochary described its condition:

*Bureau received from the Estate of Miss Alice Wilson\*, was disassembled and had been in the basement of the Hays House until January 1983 when it was delivered to John P. Lochary who had expressed a desire to try to put it in usable condition. All pieces, except the mirror and drawers on top of chest, were disjoined and badly warped. Top of chest, probably marble, was missing.*

The marble top was eventually found in the basement. Mr. Lochary could not correct the warping, but for a cost of \$46 in materials, he succeeded in repairing and refinishing the chest well enough for display.

The chest's decorative details were described in a 1990s appraisal as "Victorian walnut marble top chest, carved and pierced supports to wing mirror matching crest, 2 small drawers below, 3 long drawers, wood leaf form pulls, straight bracket feet, paneled ends."

In 2018, when the chest was again in serious need of repair, the Smithson Chapter of the Maryland State Questers gave the Society a grant to hire local furniture restoration expert Arthur Benser to rejuvenate it. Using wood and veneers salvaged from other old furniture, he replaced missing structural and decorative panels. He repaired the drawers' dovetails, side panels, and runners; addressed issues inside the case; and repaired and refastened the glove boxes and the mirror base. He then cleaned and sealed the entire piece before reverently setting it back in place. The transformation was astonishing!

Thanks to Mr. Benser and the Questers, our approximately 150-year-old chest of drawers now shows its true age only by its post-Civil War era design.

*\*Possibly Alice Helena Wilson of Emmorton, 1879-1970, a descendant of the Archer and Stump families on her mother's side, and the David Lee family of Jerusalem Mill in Kingsville on her father's side.*

### **HSHC-HSM POSITION OPENINGS**

#### **Historical Society of Harford County and Hosanna School Museum**

- **General Description**

The Historical Society of Harford County (HSHC) has partnered with the Hosanna School Museum (HSM) to create a traveling exhibition that showcases the rich African American history of the county. HSHC is Maryland's oldest historical society, while HSM is a restored Freedmen's Bureau School. HSHC houses a vast collection of archives related to African American history, including manumission documents, certificates of freedom, and a two-volume collection of one-page pamphlets that provide information on various aspects of African American history in Harford County from the 18th to the 20th centuries. However, these resources remain largely unknown to many County residents, making them untapped treasures with untold stories. The traveling exhibit aims to increase awareness by displaying these stories in schools, libraries, and public buildings, highlighting the local and national impact of Harford's African American community.

We are forming a team comprised of a Researcher/Collections/Archives Specialist, Exhibition Curator, Graphic Designer, and Marketing Specialist. These are contractual part-time and grant supported positions. The team will work under the leadership of the Directors of both HSHC and HSM.

- **Researcher/Collections/Archival Specialist | \$30 per hour**

The main responsibility of the Researcher/Collections/Archival Specialist is to serve as the subject-matter expert and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the HSHC holdings that relate to African American history. The Researcher will also be required to reach out to members of the Harford County African American community to request additional archival and artifact contributions within specific categories. Additionally, the researcher will provide training and informational materials to HSHC staff and archival and artifact volunteers who will be responsible for maintaining and preserving the collection for the future. The researcher should have a BA or MA degree in history, African American Studies, 19th to 20th-century U.S. History, Archival studies, or a similar field and two years of working experience in

that field. A portfolio review of previous work will be requested if the candidate is selected for an interview.

- **Exhibition Curator | \$30 per hour**

The Exhibition Curator will perform an extensive assessment of the HSHC materials related to African American history, as given by the Researcher/Collections/Archival Specialist. Then, curate and create an exhibition based on the researcher's discoveries on particular categories of African American experiences. Produce all aspects of the exhibition content, including narrative panels, audiovisual displays, and online educational materials. Collaborate with fabricators and graphic designers. Additionally, provide HSHC staff, archival, and artifact volunteers with training and informative materials so they can take responsibility for the care, handling, and organization of the collection's future travels and deliveries. Candidate should have a BA or MA degree in museum studies, curatorial studies, or a similar field and two years of working experience as a curator. A portfolio review of previous work will be requested if the candidate is selected for an interview.

- **Graphic Designer | \$30 per hour**

The Graphic Designer will collaborate with the exhibition curator, researcher/collections archivist, and exhibition fabricators to create and design all exhibition graphics. This includes narrative panels, print materials, audiovisual displays, and web-based educational information. The Graphic Designer and Curator will closely work together to ensure consistency, safety, and preservation of all traveling materials. Candidate should have an AA or BA degree in graphic design, visual communications, or a similar discipline. A portfolio review will be requested if the candidate is selected for an interview.

- **Marketing Specialist | \$30 per hour**

The Marketing and Outreach Coordinator: Design and produce all community outreach for research and oral histories, marketing materials, and social media content, including web-based content and video promotions for the exhibition launch. An AA degree in marketing, BA or higher degree is preferred. A portfolio review will be requested if the candidate is selected for an interview.

**Each candidate should be a self-starter, problem solver, and team player and possess an “entrepreneurial spirit”—an independent worker committed to getting things done in a timely manner. and excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills with a friendly personality.**

- **How to Apply:**

Email [admin@hosannaschoolmuseum.org](mailto:admin@hosannaschoolmuseum.org)

Place “HSHC-HSM. Position” in the subject line of your email and attach the following items: a cover letter that includes the position you are seeking, a resume or curriculum vitae, and contact information for three professional references, including their contact information.

Positions open until filled.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### **Marlene M. Magness**

Former Society President and long-term volunteer, Marlene M. Magness, age 91, of Joppa, Maryland passed away on October 4, 2023. Born in Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Wilhelm and Lena (Hoch) Shissler and the wife of the late Lee (Smith) Magness. She continued to run the family farm, Duncale, after the death of her husband.

Marlene volunteered at the Harford County Historical Society where she served as head of the Archives Committee for more than twenty years and as President of the Society for two years in 1996-97. She was very instrumental in negotiating the transfer of the old post office from the county to the Historical Society, working closely with Congresswoman Helen Bentley to get it done. Without her work, the Society may even now be searching for a permanent home.



Marlene was chosen as one of Harford County's "Most Beautiful People" and as a "Harford County Living Treasure". Her dedication to the Society and the countless hours she donated to creating the Society's Archives and coordinating the move of Society materials from numerous locations throughout Harford to our present headquarters made a tremendous impact on the viability of the institution. We owe much to this beloved volunteer.

Marlene is survived by her sons, Lee S. Magness, Jr. and John E. Magness; daughter, Kathleen E. Magness; grandchildren, Parker Magness and Jacob Magness.

### HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

#### **The Perfect Gift for Current / Former County Residents: *In Their Own Words: Harford in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***

As part of Harford County's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2023-2024), current and former residents shared 105 stories about life in Harford County in the last century. These fascinating accounts of personal triumphs and tragedies, the day-to-day experiences of our neighbors will make you smile and sometimes bring a tear. This is a limited edition, so order early while supplies last.

8 1/2" x 11" hardbound cover, 334 pages, \$28

#### **Now Available: Four New Books by Henry C. Peden, Jr.**

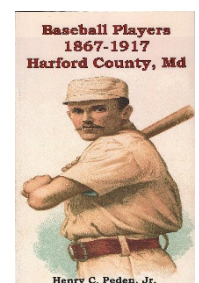
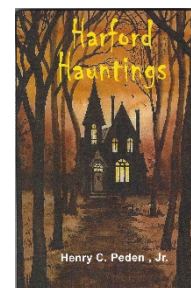
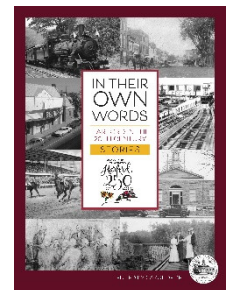
- **Harford Hauntings**, by Henry C. Peden, Jr. (2023)

This book contains 54 ghost stories and tall tales in Harford County.

5 1/2 x 8 1/2, perfect bound soft cover, 105 pages, images, \$10 each

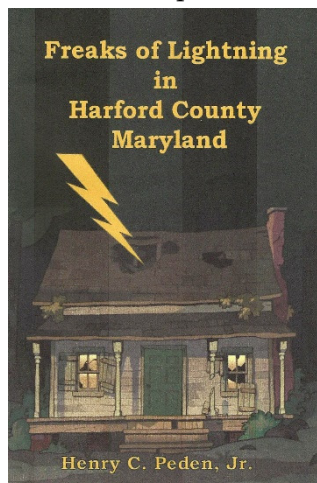
- **Baseball Players, 1867-1917, Harford County, Md**, by Henry C. Peden, Jr. (2023)

The first baseball game was played in Harford County in 1867. This book contains



sketches of hundreds of Harford County ball players and club officials over the first 50 years.

5 1/2 x 8 1/2, perfect bound soft cover, 211 pages, images, \$18 each



- **Freaks of Lightning in Harford County, Maryland**, by Henry C. Peden, Jr. (2023)

This book presents stories about hundreds of incidents of injury, death, and destruction caused by lightning strikes in 19th-century Harford County.

5 1/2 x 8 1/2, perfect bound soft cover, 142 pages, images, \$12 each

- **Blacksmiths, 1774-1930, Harford County, Md.**, by Henry C. Peden, Jr. (2023)

This book presents information for approximately 1,000 blacksmiths in the county from 1774 to 1930.

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 perfect bound soft cover, 218 pages, images. Price.....\$16 each.

Available at HSHC headquarters. All proceeds go to the benefit of the Society.

### SAVE THE DATE

We are already planning events for next year. Watch future newsletters for details, but for now, consider saving these dates.



Saturday, January 13, 2024, Todd Holden, *Adventures at the Aegis*, Historical Society Headquarters, 2 pm

Saturday, February 10, 2024, Walt Holloway, Historical Society Headquarters, *The Ma & Pa Railroad*, 2 pm



Saturday, March 23, 2024, Harford 250 Grand Finale, *Celebrating Tomorrow: Make Harford History Now*, Bel Air Reckord Armory, 12 pm

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The Historical Society  
of Harford County, Inc.  
143 North Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014



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November / December 2023

DATED MATERIAL

The NEWSLETTER of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. is published bi-monthly.

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY and GIFT SHOP HOURS**

Tuesday  
COURT RECORDS  
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday  
ARCHIVES  
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Third Wednesday  
ARCHIVES & HENRY  
C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY  
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Thursday  
HENRY C. PEDEN Jr.  
RESEARCH LIBRARY  
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Fourth Saturday  
ARCHIVES & HENRY  
C. PEDEN Jr. LIBRARY  
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.